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that Dr. Herbert would be willing to admit that we are yet driven to assume a psychical or "vitalistic," much less a supernatural factor, in organic evolution.

Under superorganic evolution he discusses the phenomena of psychical, social, and religious (theological) evolution. Here as elsewhere in the book the treatment is consistently naturalistic. Moral evolution in animals and man receives a treatment similar to that given to the problem of the physical and racial origin of man. The book closes with a presentation of the evolutionary philosophy of Bergson. Dr. Herbert really appears to understand Bergson. A very valuable bibliography is added. The glossary of scientific terms will help the lay reader.

HERBERT V. NEAL.

TUFTS COLLEGE.

HYMNS OF THE EARLY CHURCH. Translated by Rev. JOHN BROWNLIE, D.D.  
Morgan & Scott. London. 1913. Pp. 202.

This book contains about a hundred hymns "translated from Greek and Latin sources; together with translations from a later period; centos and suggestions from the Greek; and several original pieces."

Such a book, to be of value, should do one of two things: it should introduce us to a body of hymns hitherto known only to the student, with opportunities for careful comparison with the originals; or, if the author departs from the ideal of a close translation, it should offer free and beautiful renderings, making available for actual use in modern churches hymns hitherto not rendered into English, or but ill translated. Unfortunately, Dr. Brownlie's volume does neither. It is often impossible to say whether one is reading an "original piece" or a translation, for the originals are indicated in the most casual fashion. Sometimes the first line of the Greek or Latin is given, but elsewhere the reader is left to guess for himself the source whence Dr. Brownlie has drawn his inspiration. Nor have many of these translations such merit as to lead to their introduction for their own sake into modern hymn-books. There are, it is true, occasional striking lines and good stanzas, but the high level is seldom long maintained and there are not infrequent evidences of careless writing.

The volume illustrates, as others of its kind have done before, the difficulty of such translation. The ancient hymns represent a type of thought and a mode of expression far removed from our own, and not to be acclimated save by a writer who can add con-

scientious scholarship and genuine poetical gifts to his relish for the beauty and vigor of the hymnody of the early church. Otherwise, however much the translator may enjoy the performance of his pleasant task, his work is not likely to result in any permanent enrichment of the great treasure-house of song.

HENRY WILDER FOOTE.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE QUEST OF THE BEST. WILLIAM DE WITT HYDE. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. Pp. viii, 267. \$1.00.

In what the author describes as "Insights into Ethics," President Hyde sets before parents, teachers, and leaders of boys, some practical considerations as to the morals of youth. The book is the outcome of ethical discussions in class and in popular assemblies, and therefore is not a finished academic study; and the repeated plan of taking each thesis and applying it to twenty relations is a little cumbersome, and perhaps unfortunate. The result is not startlingly original; indeed, the author admits that its orthodoxy surprises himself. For example: natural badness is a stuff to be made over into goodness, of which it is the germ; artificial goodness falls short of the best; the best is the interest that fulfils all other interests in proportion to their worth; accepting anything less than the best is sin; and personal contact is the supreme mode of communicating moral power to youth.

In spite, however, of the familiar sound of these affirmations, the book should be of real and great value to the constituency it seeks. It gives the practical man an inkling of the larger principles of ethics which he often embodies unconsciously in his rule-of-thumb methods of conduct; and it sets before men who live in an age of moral extremes, the Aristotelian mean as the trembling equilibrium which ethics attains at the best. Not less valuable is the common-sense approach, the hopeful temper, and sympathetic mood of the book, and the hardy morality it inculcates. It should prove a most serviceable manual of practical use for the persons addressed in its pages.

GEORGE T. SMART.

NEWTON HIGHLANDS.